Christan Communities to resolve the growing threat of attacks on Christian Minorities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the VHP and the Bajrang Dal had been invited to represent the Hindu Community; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the yardsticks applied to assign VHP and Bajrang Dal the status of sole representatives of the Hindu community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Commission for Minorities met some leaders of the Christian Community in June, 2000 in the context of allegations that the attacks on christian places of worship and institutions were being masterminded by the VHP/Bajrang Dal. During the meeting, the Christian leaders welcomed a meeting with the representatives of the VHP/ Bajrang Dal to be arranged by the National Commission for Minorities. This, it was felt, would assist in removing misunderstanding and restoring harmony.

(b) The NCM later held a separate meeting with VHP/Bajrang Dal leaders. There was wholehearted support from these two organizations to the proposal for a dialogue. Dates convenient to the VHP/ Bajrang Dal were 11th and 12th July, 2000. These dates however did not suit the leaders of the christian community. The dialogue has therefore not taken place so far.

(c) The NCM has at no stage extended any recognition to the VHP/Bajrang Dal as being sole representatives of the Hindu Community.

Plan for poor street children in Delhi

125. PROF. M.M AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have any comprehensive plan for the poor street children in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of steps proposed by Government to solve their problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is operating a scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" as also a telephone help line called "Child line" in the country. Both the schemes are being implemented in Delhi also.

(b) The objective of the scheme "An Integrated Programme for Street children" is to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from life on the streets. The target group of this programme is children without homes and family ties i.e. street children and children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Under this scheme grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations for wide range of services for the welfare of street children like shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education and recreation facilities. The state Government, UT Administrations, local bodies and Educational Institutions are also eligible for financial assistance under this programme. The expenditure under this Programme during the last three years in Delhi is as follows:—

Year	Financial assistance In Lakhs of Rupees	No. of NGOs assisted
1997-98	28.19	6
1998-99	33.71	7
1999-2000	50.35	8

During the year 1998-99, the Ministry launched child line service. The child line is a 24 hours free phone service which can be accessed by a child in distress or/and adult on his behalf by dialing the number 1098 on telephone. Child-line provides emergency assistance to a child and subsequently based upon the child's need, the child is referred to an appropriate organization for long term follow up and care. The service focuses on the needs of children living alone on the streets, child labourers working in the unorganized sector, domestic workers and sexually abused children. The service is presently operative in 14 cities of the country including Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.